

POSITIVE ABILITIES

SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



September 2014

MISSION

The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.

TRANSITIONING.....



TRANSITION ALLIANCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Over the past several years, the Capacity Building Institute (CBI) co-sponsored by the IDEA Partnership at NASDSE's Community of Practice on Transition, the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities, the National Post-School Outcomes Center, and the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center have brought together interdisciplinary state teams from around the nation to engage in a continuous improvement process to gain secondary transition knowledge and skills, capacity building strategies, and participate in facilitated team planning to target improved transition services, high school completion rates, and post-school outcomes of students with disabilities (www.nsttac.org).

In May 2011, a multi-agency team participated in the CBI in Charlotte, NC. The agency representatives that met during that Institute worked together to create a state plan for building capacity for transition programming in South Carolina. That was the first step in the development of what is now known as the Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC). A Memo of Understanding was initiated and signed in 2012 by the following agencies: Department of Education, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities Council, PRO-Parents, University of South Carolina – Department of Educational Studies and the University of South Carolina – Center for Disability Resources. Able South Carolina and Family Connection of South Carolina have since joined the alliance. The TASC currently meets on a regular basis to share information and resources and to strategize on how to improve transition services for youth with disabilities.



STATE TRANSITION TEAM

Transition Planning Institute for Local Interagency Teams

Contributed by Kinsey Carlson-Britting, Center for Disability Resources



On Friday, May 2, 2014, more than 100 transition stakeholders convened at the Phillips Market Center in Columbia, SC for a one day Transition Planning Institute for Local Interagency Teams.

The Transition Planning Institute was sponsored by the South Carolina Transition & Employment Advancement Model (SC-TEAM) in collaboration with the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC); The Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC); and the SC Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT). The goal of

the day was to build transition to employment program capacity for youth with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities (ID/DD) across South Carolina.

In total, twenty teams from across the state participated in the institute. The teams in attendance represented the following counties: Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson 2, Anderson 5, Bamberg 2, Berkeley, Charleston, Cherokee, Dorchester 4, Fairfield, Greenville, Laurens 55, Lexington 1, Lexington 2, Lexington 5, Richland 2, the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, Spartanburg 5, York 2, and York 5. As part of the participation requirements established by the institute sponsors, teams were mandated to have at least two agencies/entities (e.g., LEA and VR, parent, DSN provider, advocacy organization, etc.) at the table. As such, the teams ranged in size from two to nine members.

The day kicked off with a panel discussion. The primary purpose of the panel session was for stakeholders who have experience with the transition from school to employment to share their experiences and perspectives with local teams attending the Institute. The panel speakers included: Derick Means (Equip Youth Leader and Successful Transition Student), Susan Kastner (Parent of transition aged son with Autism), and Bruce Clayman (President of HKA Enterprises and employer of people with disabilities).

After the panel concluded, the focus shifted to building South Carolina's local capacity in the promotion and implementation of promising practices in the area of transition from school to work. This was accomplished through two mechanisms - a keynote presentation and a strategic planning session. Both the keynote presentation and the strategic planning session were led by renowned leader, trainer, and researcher in the field of administrative leadership and secondary transition, Sharon deFur. Sharon is currently a professor at William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA.

The main objectives for Professor deFur's keynote presentation included: 1) for participants to understand and describe at least one new idea for implementing a best practice in student and family engagement that

would help promote post-school employment for youth with ID/DD; 2) for participants to discover one new strength(s) of their local team that could help create innovative practices in transition employment services for youth with ID/DD; and 3) for participants to be willing to think outside of the box and generate ideas for ways to prepare and support youth and young adults with ID/DD in employment.

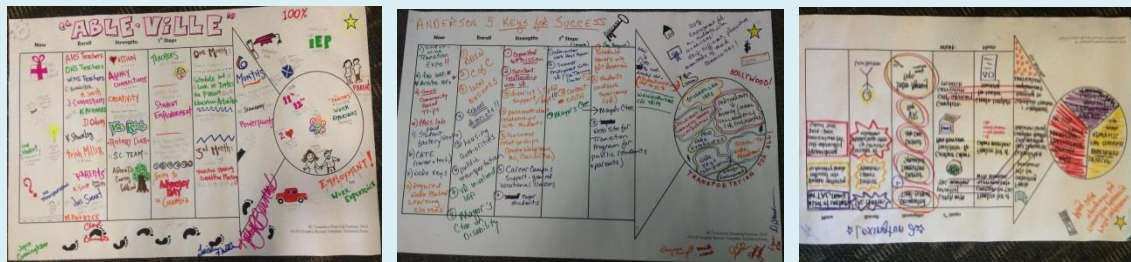
The keynote was a way to get the ideas flowing because immediately following Professor deFur's keynote, the Institute participants spent the remainder of the day engaged in strategic planning efforts utilizing the PATH (Planning Alternatives Tomorrow with Hope) tool. PATH planning is a backwards-planning, but forward-thinking, process. PATH is a proactive, strengths-based, and visual way to show how an individual's or organization's goals can be reached (see examples below).

Through the PATH process on May 2nd, teams initially mapped out their long-term goals but gradually broke those goals down into more immediate steps. By the end of the day, not only were immediate steps identified, individual people at the table and back in their community were elected to carry out those steps and a deadline for completion was established.

During the planning process, each local interagency team was paired with a "facilitator" who helped to document the group's ideas and advocate for planning progress/completion. As a follow-up to the activities on May 2nd, the facilitator assigned to each team will check-in and encourage (if need be) discussion of current activities, needs, and plans on a monthly basis. They will encourage progress and help identify needed supports be it agency and/or community connections, training, technical assistance, and/or information and resources.

Last but not least, all of the teams that participated in the Institute on May 2nd have been encouraged to attend the fall DCDT Conference that will be held on November 17th & 18th. This conference will allow the teams to reconnect and bring new people into the fold, if needed.

PATH Plans that were created:



South Carolina's Interagency Transition Conference

Building Bridges: Constructing and Navigating Transition Services for Youth with Disabilities

Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston SC 29403
(843) 723-3000

IMPROVING TRANSITION OUTCOMES

Two Post-secondary Transition Coordinators are responsible for facilitating the preparation of students who are eligible for DDSN services for the successful transition between school programs and post-secondary education training, residential, and work settings. These individuals serve as liaison between the local education agencies (LEAs) and the DDSN statewide service delivery system to provide operational and technical assistance to schools, school districts, DDSN qualified providers, and the South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVRD) in the development and improvement of interagency community-based vocational supports. Activities include facilitating development and maintenance of working relationships, conducting training and provides technical assistance, collaboration with other initiatives, educating businesses on the benefits of hiring people with intellectual and related disabilities, Assisting DDSN providers and businesses on accessing employer incentive programs for post-secondary transition, assisting DDSN providers in conducting job screenings for post-secondary transition at employment sites and assisting in establishing consistent, effective collaboration among local DDSN providers, LEAs, SCVRD area offices, and other stakeholders to ensure that best practices regarding post-secondary transition are planned and implemented for eligible students.

Jennifer Quinn has provided Respite care, worked with the Carolina LIFE program, focused on transition in her graduate studies (including externships with adult service agencies) and has been in the educational field. Previously, she was located in Washington state and has seen first-hand how the Employment First focus benefits students with significant disabilities in obtaining jobs in their community. She is excited to become involved with improving post-secondary outcomes for youth with disabilities.



Rhonda Mumford has worked in the school system for over 10 years as a high school self-contained teacher and Transition Specialist. She previously worked with Greenville County and Spartanburg Seven school districts. During her time in Spartanburg, Rhonda provided transition training for teachers and support staff. She provides experience in and enthusiasm for helping to improve the lives of youths with disabilities. In addition, she engages in her work with the additional insight provided from collaborative experiences with working jointly with district and agency staff to Promote post-secondary transition of youth with disabilities.



Rhonda and Jennifer attend a transition program celebration

www.transitionschooltowork.org

COMMUNITY OPTIONS

By Kathleen Naramore, Parent



**Tyler Naramore, Starquana White, Shelley Jeffers
Anthony Thompson, Brianna Burke, Julie Thomas,
Jordan Mills-Benedict**

As my son, Tyler, continues to job train alongside Anthony, I am confident that he will reach one of his goals shortly, to become employed. From there he will be able to further the skills and resources that were provided by STEP and ultimately reach his full potential. I can't thank Anthony and the Community Options staff enough for the positive influence they have had on him in such a short period of time. When it seems like everyone else is saying you can't do that, STEP is saying yes you can, and you will!

Kathleen Naramore
Parent

**Anthony Thompson, Supported Employment
Coordinator; Dorothy Goodwin, Community
Options Director**

The Community Options School To Employment Program (STEP) has been so helpful for my child who is affected by a developmental disability. This program has opened my eyes and given me new hope that he can accomplish his goals.

After seeking employment for the last couple of years, he had not progressed past the application stage, and he had become very discouraged. STEP has provided him with the necessary tools to make him competitive for employment. The Program has also given him assistance with completing job applications and participating in mock interviews. He is currently working towards employment with one of the STEP partners.

Anthony Thompson, his STEP Supported Employment Coordinator, has Equipped him with lifelong employment seeking skills that I could not have provided. I have seen significant growth in confidence and ability. Anthony's patience, persistence and energetic personality has pushed my son to become a more mature and responsibility individual.





**Tyler, Shelley, Starquana, Julie, Brianna and Jordan
Receive certificates**



**Julie and Starquana enjoy learning about
caring for pets**



Starquana and Julie enjoy working at BI-LO



STEP is a wonderful program to be a part of. I am thankful to the staff for believing in me. Because of them and my teachers and the job specialists, I became a successful employee at BI-LO as a courtesy clerk.

Starquana White, Spring Valley High School.



Julie receives recognition from BI-LO Store Manager Irving Lewis



Shelley Jeffers assisting seniors from the Seven Oaks Recreation Center

Thanks for all you taught me. My experience of STEP was amazing. I loved how I can learn about different jobs. My experiences that I had was the hair salon which was ok and then when I got to Seven Oaks Recreation Center, I really liked how I could be more hands on and it was stuff like that I liked doing. I got to paint dog food bowls and make coasters for a sweet lady named Mrs. Jordan. Then my next job I did was at Old Navy that was pretty fun. I got to learn a whole lot thanks to Ms. Kesha and then I got hired as a seasonal worker. Now I work the fitting room and the sales floor. I got to learn a whole lot from Mr. Anthony Thompson. He taught me a lot of things. I was glad I got to experience a lot of jobs and the retail part is a lot of stress but Mr. Thompson helps me with a lot of things. Thanks for all you did for me STEP. I really appreciate all the confidence you gave me.

Shelley Jeffers Spring Valley High School

Old Navy

By Kesha White, Old Navy Service and Training Manager

Old Navy was given the opportunity to help educate and provide learning experiences for a group of young students from local high schools. Since given the opportunity our staff has enjoyed the experience and realizes our youth need the training for job readiness. STEP provides this type of platform and has leveraged on the experience heavily. Our team motto at Harbison Old Navy is, "In every community, there is work to be done." In our ability we have the passion to deliver.



Anthony works with students in training preparation



Irving Lewis, BI-LO Store Manager; Anthony Thompson, STEP Coordinator; Kesha White, Old Navy Service & Training Manager

STEP aids in assisting students with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities in developing lifelong employment skills which will continue to be beneficial throughout their careers. Employers say the students have an infectious excitement and are careful in following instructions. The program is proving to be very positive in transitioning from school into the workforce.

EQUIP YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP GROUP

Equip is a Young Adult Leadership program focused on empowering young adults with disabilities ages 14-25 by showing them the skills necessary to build self-confidence, set and accomplish goals, and become community activists. This program is funded by a DDC grant with the National Youth Leadership Network in partnership with Able South Carolina. Able South Carolina is a Center for Independent Living serving individuals with all types of disabilities in South Carolina.



The Equip Young Adult Leadership Group has been up to some exciting things! They recently completed a six-week summer series at the Able SC offices and over 50 young adults have participated so far. Equip is a youth-run and youth-led program for young adults ages 14-25 years old with all types of disabilities. They are learning about disability rights, self-advocacy, and goal setting, while having fun along the way!



Here are some of the individual accomplishments of the Equip members:

Equip Participant Kristin Jackson completed her first year of college and obtained part-time employment this summer at Staples. She plans to continue working when classes resume in the fall.

Equip Young Adult Leader Derrick Means secured full-time employment at the USC Union Library beginning in the Fall! Derrick is a graduate of USC Union and is very excited to transition from part-time to full-time employment with them. His next goal is to start saving up for his own place. Derrick has also been commuting twice a week to Greenville from Union to lead the Equip Summer Series, which has allowed him to master long-distance driving--something he was unfamiliar and nervous to do. While Derrick will not be able to be quite as active in Equip this year due to working full-time (he attended 20 different Equip events during the last grant year!), he still wants to be involved and continue motivating young adults to take charge of their futures.

Equip Participant Shelley Jeffers started a part-time summer job at Old Navy and reports that she loves it. Shelley continues to volunteer her time and services with the Equip Leadership Group, and just recently was a delegate attendee of the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Conference in Newberry July 9-11, where she assisted other young adult delegates in learning more about disability history, the Disability Rights Movement, and bullying.

Equip Young Adult Leader Micahlyn Houpt was a participant in the Equip Summer Series last year, and through her continued involvement with the program, was able to transition into one of the leaders of the Series this year. Micahlyn recently graduated from high school and will attend college in the Fall. She has already been taking some college courses online. Her career goal is to find a role empowering individuals with disabilities.

Equip member Ana-Gelicia Byrd became very involved as a volunteer with the Equip Leadership Group during the past grant year. Ana-Gelicia obtained a full-time job at the end of May, where she is able to utilize her CNA and help others in a professional capacity. She has also been working with NAMI to raise awareness about the importance of treatment for African-American individuals with psychiatric disabilities.

Equip Gives Blowfish Fans Reason to Cheer!



Equip was the star of the show at the Blowfish baseball game on July 18. Equip Member Jonathan Rich threw out the first pitch, Equip Leader Bryann Burgess gave an interview about the purpose of Equip, and supporters came out to cheer and hold signs to support the youth. What a great opportunity to recruit new Equip members and to let the community know that young adults with disabilities are making an impact!



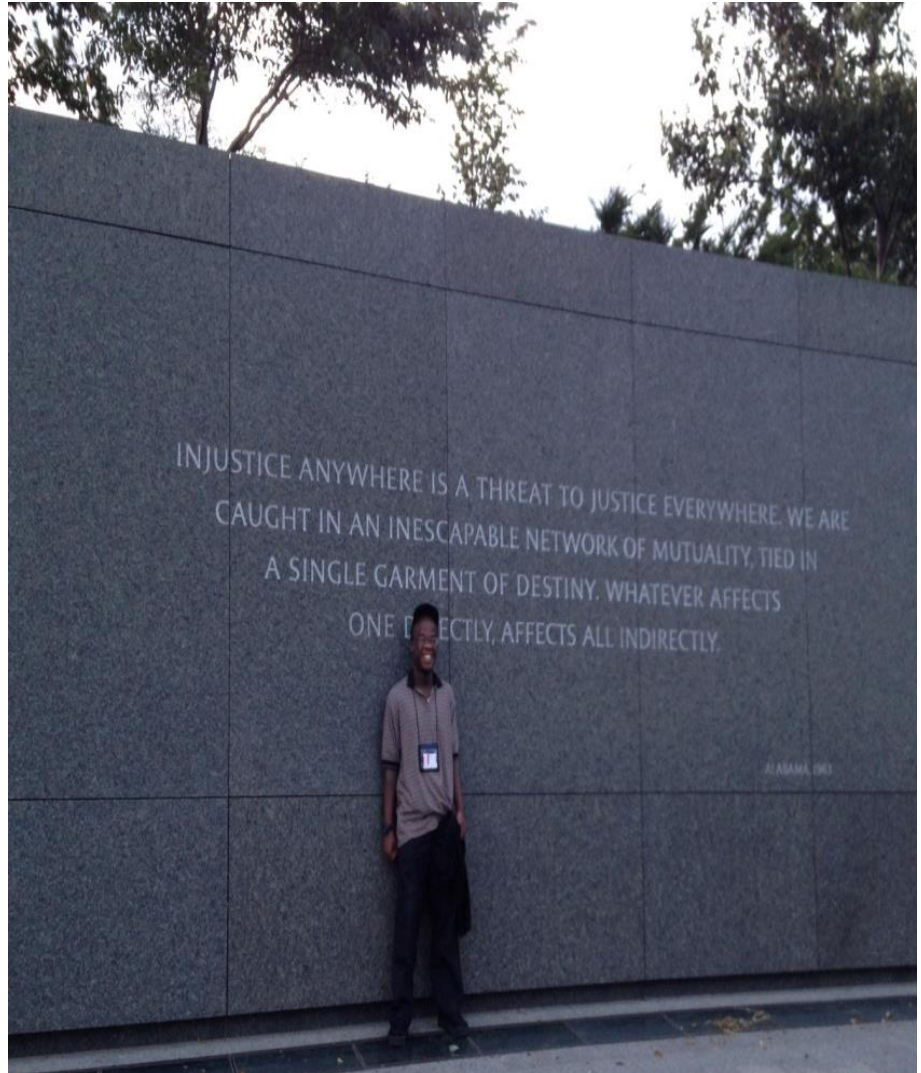
Project Inclusion in Abbeville, SC is off to a tremendous start! Able SC staff worked with the youth throughout the last school year and met some amazing self-advocates. Abbeville High School bused some of their youth to Advocacy Day for Access and Independence to see systemic advocacy and government in action. We can't wait to see what the new school year holds for this group!

Able SC Attends the NCIL Conference in Washington D.C.!

By Letrell Hodge
Able South Carolina/Equip
Leadership Group

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” This is a quote by Martin Luther King Jr. This is a quote that was used during the NCIL conference regarding the rights of people with disabilities. On July 27-31, I got the privilege to travel to Washington, D.C. for the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) 2014 Conference.

Independent Living is the most widely accepted perspective on disability rights in America. The National Council on Independent Living is a national organization responsible for advocating this philosophy. This philosophy emphasizes that people with disabilities are experts on their own needs, that they have crucial and valuable perspective to contribute to society, and deserve equal opportunity to decide how to live, work, and take part in their communities.



Letrell Hodge at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.

For me, the NCIL conference was a fun experience. It was good to hear the experiences of people with disabilities and it was good to hear all the issues in the disability community and the progress of the disability community. For example, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services. President Obama signed the law on July 22, 2014. In D.C., we made rally signs for the March on Capitol Hill and we met with Senators and Representatives by discussing issues that were important to us. One issue that was important to us was the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (CRPD). This is an international treaty that was inspired by U.S. leadership in recognizing the rights of people with disabilities. On December 4, 2012, the U.S. Senate considered the ratification of the CRPD but fell 5 votes short of the majority votes required. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was the model for the CRPD, which

Able in Washington D.C. Continued . . .



Robbie Kopp, Dori Tempio, Casper, Rachel Kaplan and Letrell Hodge at the NCIL rally

values independence and respect and the concept of reasonable accommodations. All are echoed throughout the treaty. I felt angry that this treaty hasn't been passed yet. People with disabilities deserve to have equal rights and reasonable accommodations.



Equip Group in Washington, D.C.

Every year NCIL has an annual meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss what is currently going on in the world of disability rights. This year I had the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. and represent Able South Carolina and the Equip Leadership Group. I had a fun time; I hope to go again next year!

South Carolina Youth Leadership Forum

The South Carolina Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) has proven to be an extremely effective model for youth with disabilities. YLF fosters self-advocacy and self-determination for student delegates through activities in small and large groups. Students work together in an environment which encourages self-expression and problem solving while building and enhancing leadership capabilities.

Delegates are exposed on national and local levels which helps provide a



global scope of the impact of youth around the country. Delegates learn information about their communities, the law, legislation and how all of these aspects impact their lives and the lives of others on a daily basis.

Delegates who are a part of the YLF find transitioning from school to employment or school to college easier to grasp. YLF participants develop the skill needed to maintain and sustain their independence. They are encouraged in advocating for their future and taking an active role in the current events that affect them personally.





Participants get an opportunity to practice what is learned throughout the training during courses such as this. They learn the power of independence, trust, and discover their own abilities.



I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C.

Individuals Motivating People to Achieve Change Together in South Carolina (I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C.) is a statewide self-advocacy council. I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. was established on May 7, 2005 when a group of self-advocates and advisors came together with a common goal to help people with disabilities have a voice.

IMPACT SC hosted their very first conference: Self-Advocacy in Action: No Limits! on June 12, 2014 in Columbia, SC to a crowd of one hundred and eighty one attendees (181), including self-advocates from various



counties and those who support their efforts. Max

Barrows of Vermont, a well-known self-advocate, was the keynote speaker. Due to his strong leadership and dedication to self-advocacy efforts in his state and the nation, IMPACT SC believed he would provide the encouragement South Carolina needs to increase the self-advocacy movement for people with disabilities. The first half of the day consisted of a motivational speech followed by a Questions and Answers session during the second half. The event was a success with a 95% satisfaction rate. The conference was funded through a grant with the DD Council.



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

By Joyce Davis, CBIS, CTRS, Executive Director



Dr. Beverly Buscemi, Joyce Davis, Tate Mikell, SC Representative Peter McCoy, Jr., Dr. Anbesaw Selassie

The Brain Injury Association of South Carolina (BIASC) has had a very busy summer! On June 27, 2014, the University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Palmetto Health CME Organization, in joint partnership with the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina, hosted its first 1-hour webinar and live activity on concussion diagnosis and treatment for over 100 emergency department physicians, physician assistants and nurses.

This webinar was given through a grant provided by the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council and Carolina Panthers Charities.

BIASC and the South Carolina Brain Injury Leadership Council (SCBILC) hosted its 2014 Statewide Life with Brain Injury Conference on July 24, 2014 in Columbia, SC. There were over 250 attendees including brain injury survivors, caregivers and professionals. Thirty-nine individuals and caregivers attended the conference through a grant from the SC Developmental Disabilities Council.

The Keynote Speaker was Brain Injury Association of America Board Chair, Mr. Daniel Chamberlain, J.D. He provided the audience with a wonderful presentation on the Voice of Brain Injury, highlighting BIAA's and BIASC's achievements. BIASC also honored three SC State Legislators for their support of the SC Student Athlete Concussion Law and SCBILC legislation. Representative Peter McCoy, Senator Michael Fair and Senator Thomas Alexander were present to receive their awards and expressed their appreciation of BIASC and its members and supporters.

BRIDGES AT THE THERAPY PLACE

By Cheryl English



Mattie and Zymir prepare for their starring role in “The Big Green Monster”

The story began unfolding in December of 2013 as the Bridges at The Therapy Place put on their production of, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”. As the children were assisted in their production, you could see the joy on the faces of the parents, guardians, and audience. The staff was filled with joy in completing a major undertaking. Every day, the Bridges staff works patiently with each child in developing fundamental tasks which can sometimes be taken for granted. Fast-forward to May 2014. Little Miss Emma stands up as she is getting ready for her part in the play, “The Big Green Monster”, she looks towards the audience and with the biggest and most confident smile, loud and clear, she says, “Hi Daddy!” She then goes on to perform her role in the play. I cannot tell you what it did to her daddy, but



Emma enjoys her time at the fair

I can tell you she along with her peers ripped my heart right out of my chest! The progress and confidence the children have developed is nothing short of amazing! At this moment, each child was a star! While day to day can be a struggle because of their disability, the moments when progress is captured and revealed become miracles.

Bridges at The Therapy Place helps children transition into the next phase of education. The Bridges program prepares students to transition into public school and/or a regimented school environment. The children work on sitting in a circle for story time, raising their hands, taking turns, etc. The goal is to have the students ready for complete integration into mainstream classes and not have them spend the entire school day in a self-contained classroom environment.

Bridges at The Therapy Place is a holistic early intervention program for children with developmental delays. The focus is to ensure children are making progress in each domain of development: gross motor skills, fine motor skills, language, cognitive and adaptive self-care. The daily routine for children centers on movement, communication and developing daily living skills. Children learn and

are encouraged through independent moving and making choices. The “Play and Learn” curriculum which is used promotes life skills and socialization.



Children participate in circle and story time



Emma, Zymir and Mattie, along with other students, perform their presentation of “The Big Green Monster” for parents and caregivers



KICK IT!

By Melinda Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Arc of the Midlands

"Kick It" is a program by the Arc of the Midlands. They have several participants in the Karate program who have transitioned into mainstream programs or have made significant transitions into little warriors!

Meet Cole Chamberlain -- In his first class he would not go on the floor or even look at the other students. In his second class he had his ABA therapist work with him to participate and at the end he was so happy -- he calls his yellow shirt his "favorite shirt" -- his mom says he wants to wear it every day. In the third class he is now leading the way. ☺



Cole Chamberlain



Meet Tee Jay Mack. He is a very quiet young man and his family wasn't sure how he would do in class. Let me tell you -- Tee Jay smiled from the time he stepped on the floor until he came off. He did so well we moved him to a mainstream class by his third class! His new instructor said he is doing very well. When his mother told him he could transition to mainstream programs he said nothing and just hugged her for a very long time. Yes, brought me to tears! His family told us they never thought in a million years he would do so well and thrive -- success!



Tee Jay Mack



Here are a few more cuties! -- Isabella and Anne's mom said they have never been able to get their girls to pay attention for any class and be so excited about anything - she could not get them to take the belts off - LOL. They are ready to transition to mainstream programs in a studio near their home in the Northeast; however, don't want to leave this class! We are working on a transition plan for these two.



Isabella and Anne Prepare for their Karate lesson

All Kick-It programs are held on Saturday mornings at the East West - Irmo location - you all come on out anytime!



Anne: "I Make This Look Good!"

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

By Dori Tempio, Information & Referral/Training Coordinator dtempio@able.sc.org



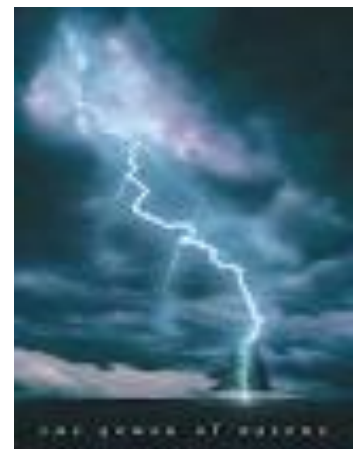
In our daily lives, it is important to take into account the unknown as well as the expected. Emergencies can arise for each of us at any given moment. When we have a disability, we may have certain circumstances that require a bit of additional planning in order to be prepared. With the fall months coming, and emergencies such as hurricanes, colder weather, and severe thunderstorms taking place, you want to be ready at a moment's notice. No matter the individual or type of disability, each person has the responsibility to plan ahead.

Here are some tips to help in the planning process. Adapt these tips to personal needs. When An Emergency Occurs:

- **Where will we be?** Emergencies can happen while you are at home or away.
- **Will you know what to do?** Creating a plan will make sure you are prepared.
- **Are the items you need ready?** Make sure your plan is stored safely with your emergency prep kit.
- **What if you need accommodations?** Think about what equipment or supports you will need to be safe.
- **Do you have a back-up plan?** If things don't go according to plan, you need to know what to do instead.
- **Who in your support system can you call?** Friends, family members, community agencies, or personal care attendants may be people in your support system.

To plan for an emergency, we have to consider the different types of emergencies, and what could happen both inside and outside of our homes. Emergencies can happen whether we are in the community, at the shopping mall, grocery store, or even on public transportation. In our homes, they can take place while we are watching TV, cooking your dinner, or doing yard work. Keeping all of these activities in mind, each of us needs to consider weather and potential safety hazards and how they will impact us personally. No matter the emergency, it is important that we develop a communication plan ahead of time, so that you are able to communicate with family, friends, emergency personnel, service providers, doctors, and insurance agents. If we have assigned someone as our out-of-state contact, we could let them know that you are safe and they could communicate with the rest of your support system from an area unaffected by the disaster. **Don't forget that texting is better than calling when a cell phone battery is running low.**

We also want to make sure that we have plenty of supplies if we are going to be in our homes during the emergency. Think about food, water, and other essential items we will need if we are going to be in our home for a week or longer.



Should we need to evacuate, where can we go? Could we go to an emergency shelter, or would it be better to go to a friend's home or a family member's house?

CREATE AN EMERGENCY KIT!

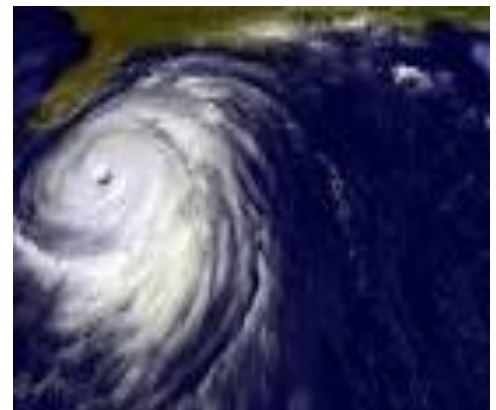
Each individual should create an emergency preparedness kit. At minimum, each emergency kit should include the following items:

- **WATER (one gallon per day per person)**
- **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD (Canned or dried)**
- **MANUAL CAN OPENER**
- **BATTERY-POWERED OR HAND-CRANK RADIO**
- **BACK-UP CELL PHONE CHARGER**
- **FLASHLIGHT WITH EXTRA BATTERIES**
- **WHISTLE (TO CALL FOR HELP)**
- **MATCHES (IN A ZIPLOC)**
- **FIRST AID KIT**
- **MEDICATION FOR 1-2 WEEKS**
- **FILTER MASK**
- **BABY WIPES AND PLASTIC BAGS FOR TRASH**
- **EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARD (IN A ZIPLOC)**
- **IMPORTANT PAPERWORK (ON A FLASH DRIVE)**
- **EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST**
- **SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR YOU & YOUR SERVICE ANIMAL**
- **ANYTHING ELSE YOU REALLY CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT**
- **ADDITIONAL SPECIAL MEDICATION (I.E., EPI PEN)**



Assistive technology is another item individuals with disabilities need to think about when an emergency might come up. Do we have a backup piece of equipment, or another location to get one? All assistive technology devices usually come with serial numbers. It is a good idea to take pictures of the assistive technology with the serial numbers on it, and either print them out or store them on the flash drive for emergencies. Individuals need to test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors every month. Can someone in your household turn off water and gas valves if they malfunction during an emergency? People who use oxygen will have to know how long their oxygen would last, how well they function without it, and how to turn it off in case of a fire. For those who live alone, a neighbor might make a great emergency partner to plan with and to look out for.

Maintenance is a big part of participating in all emergency procedure plans. Over the course of weeks and months, homes and neighborhoods may change. An emergency plan should be



reviewed and updated at least every six months. Copies of a lease or deed, social security card, insurance policy, birth/marriage certificates, will, family records, and bank account information may be very important during and after a disaster. Make sure all important documents are secured in waterproof packaging with Ziploc bags. An individual can also choose to store documents or important photos on a flash drive that can be kept in an emergency preparedness kit.



Remember, each person has to promote their own independence in emergency situations. It is your responsibility to take care of your needs and plan ahead. Not only is it essential to plan and prepare, but individuals with disabilities must also participate in the emergency preparedness process. As Ed Roberts, founder of the independent living movement once said, "Instead of saying we need to take care of individuals with disabilities, let's teach them to take care of themselves!" Decisions about emergency preparedness are made every day in our towns, our counties, our State, and our Nation. It is important that people with disabilities are at the table to make sure that plans include all perspectives and meet everyone's needs.

If you would like more information on Emergency Preparedness, or further training, please contact Robbie Kopp at Able South Carolina at 1-800-681-6805, 803-779-5121, TTY: 803 779-0949, or e-mail at rkopp@able-sc.org.

THIS ARTICLE IS A PART OF ABLE SOUTH CAROLINA'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

"Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare"



For more information, visit the website:

<http://scemd.org/planandprepare/preparedness/functional-needs>

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Home and Community Based Services Rule Public Meetings

Come to a meeting, to learn and give input.

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will be hosting twelve public meetings. They are traveling to many areas of the state to provide you with information about the new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Rule and giving you the opportunity to ask questions and provide input to how this will impact our state. SCDHHS wants your opinion on how to improve services in South Carolina.

The time for each location is 6-7:30 P.M.

Representatives from SCDHHS and SCDDSN will be speaking at all of the meetings.

September 16, 2014	Anderson	Anderson United Way 604 N Murray Ave Anderson, SC 29625
September 25, 2014	Spartanburg	Pacific Place at The Lyman Center 59 Groce Road Lyman, SC 29365
October 2, 2014	Myrtle Beach	Horry Georgetown Tehcnical College 950 Crabtree Lane Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
October 9, 2014	Greenwood	Burton Center for Disabilities and Special Needs 2605 Hwy. 72 /221 E Greenwood SC 29649
October 16, 2014	Beaufort	Beaufort County DSN Board 100 Clear Water Way Beaufort, SC 29906
October 21, 2014	York	Rock Hill Horizon Industries 525 Bryant Blvd. Rock Hill, SC 29732
November 13, 2014	Florence	TBD
November 18, 2014	Greenville	Kroc Center
December 2, 2014	Charleston	TBD
December 4, 2014	Columbia	TBD

www.FamilyConnectionSC.org/public-meetings or visit www.SCDHHS.gov/hcbs.



A Word From the Chair



Amy Davenport, DD Council Chairperson

It is such a privilege to be an ongoing part of such an amazing cohort of individuals who comprise the DD Council. As a parent and the Chairperson I am honored to be able to witness the positive results in transition and leadership for all ages and in all areas of disabilities.

Members of the DD Council attended the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference in Washington and returned with a wealth of information and in-house changes that will assist with accountability as well as continuation of our current state plan.

I would like to say a special **“Thank You”** to all of our grantees for the amazing programs and events taking place around the state. We also want to congratulate Kersha Sessions on her new job; however, we are saddened to see her leave the DD Council. She has been a valuable resource from the Department of Mental Health. We thank her for her work on the Council and wish her much success.



Frank Bentley, Council Secretary and staff, Kimberly Fontanez, Grants Administrator, went to the NACDD Conference in Washington



Council members from around the United States and US Territories at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in Washington

SOUTH CAROLINA DD COUNCIL

UPCOMING EVENTS....



- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 10/14/2014 | DD Council Meeting |
| 10/17/2014 | Science to Practice FASD (Facts About Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) |
| | William S. Hall, 1800 Colonial Drive, Columbia SC 29203 |
| 11/11/2014 | Election Day |
| 11/17-18/2014 | South Carolina Interagency Transition Conference, Charleston Marriot |
| 12/09/2014 | DD Council Meeting |

Welcome Interns!



Rey Miller is a second year MSW student at the University of South Carolina studying social policy and practice. Inspired by the self-advocacy of others with disabilities, he is eager to help build capacity among groups working to advance individuals' access to employment and other post-school opportunities in South Carolina. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - Steeler Country, he is proud to be accepted into the Gamecock family. When Rey is not occupied with field work, research, school work, or the honor society, Rey can be found volunteering with P&A, American Red Cross, Lutheran Family Services—or working on his plate at The Flying Saucer.

DD Council welcomes two student interns from the University of South Carolina's Master of Social Work (MSW) program, Reyhan Miller and Amelia Hartman. Rey started in August and Amelia will begin her internship in September.

Executive Director



Many of our articles featured in this issue focus on transition from high school to competitive employment and post-secondary education. This is a major focus for the Council. It's exciting to be a part of the real change that is beginning to take hold. I remember my frustration just about three years ago, when I attended a conference to speak to transition professionals about how the Council could use their funding to help improve outcomes for students in South Carolina. My question met with silence from the group. Since that time, many exciting things have been developed and although we have a long way to go, I am so happy with the progress and being a part of the positive change. The Council is proud of our partners and grantees and the work that they are doing to enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Valarie Bishop

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

Ms. Kimberly Addis
Ms. Dianne S. Bennett
Mr. Frank Bentley
Mr. Ed Bible
Mr. Jacob Chorey
Ms. Amy Davenport
Ms. Mary Ann DeBerry
Ms. Sharon Durham
Mr. Coy "Les" Durham, III

Ms. Mary Eaddy
Mr. Milton "Drew" Gatlin, Jr.
Mr. Owens Goff
Mrs. Freda King
Mr. Roger Kuperman
Ms. Melina Lee
Mr. George Maky
Ms. Kimberly Maple
Ms. Mildred Mayes

Dr. Charles McLafferty
Mr. Dustin Mills
Ms. Gloria Prevost
Mr. Brad Raymond
Dr. David Rotholz
Mr. Marion Taylor
Ms. Jennifer Van Cleave
Mr. Charles Daniel Willis

Staff

Valarie Bishop, Executive Director
Kimberly Fontanez, Grants Administrator
Carol Niederhauser, Program Coordinator
Cheryl English, Program Information Coordinator
Esther Williams, Administrative Assistant
Reyhan Miller, MSW Student Intern
Amelia Hartman, MSW Student Intern

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